



California Department of Fish and Game Deer Management Program 2008 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811

General Deer Hunting Information For **ZONE C-4** **and** **Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-1** (Includes Additional Hunts G-1, J-3 and J-21)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone C-4 located in portions of Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and Tehama counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery season (A-1; C Zones Archery Only), general season (C Zone Tag), and "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

Northern Region Office (Region 1), 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA 96001 (530-225-2300) encompassing Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity counties; or

North Central Region Office (Region 2), 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900) encompassing Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, northeastern Sacramento, eastern San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, northern Yolo and Yuba counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at:

<http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.asp>

IMPORTANT NOTE for C Zone Tag Applicants:

In the past few years, the demand for C Zone tags has increased dramatically, resulting in quotas being reached before leftover draw tags become available in early July. **Beginning in 2007, applicants may only use a First-Deer Tag Application to apply for a C Zone tag.** Due to this high demand, it is also recommended that C Zone tag applicants do the following to assure a greater chance of obtaining a C Zone tag:

- 1) Submit your application early, preferably before the Big Game Drawing deadline; or
- 2) If applying for a premium deer zone/hunt or preference point through the Big Game Drawing, use the opportunity to obtain a C Zone tag with your Second or Third Choice. Do not wait to receive an unsuccessful draw notice, as C Zone tag quotas may already be filled by the time you receive the notice.

The 2008 deer hunting regulations specific for Zone C-4 (C Zones general season tag), Area-Specific Archery Hunt A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Tag), and any additional hunts are at the end of this sheet.

Season dates vary between "C" zones, so be sure to check the current regulations for the "C" zone(s) you plan to hunt.

To hunt deer during the archery season in Zone C-4, hunters must possess an A-1 hunt tag (C Zones Archery Only Hunt). This tag is valid in any "C" zone (C-1, C-2, C-3 or C-4), but **ONLY** during the prescribed archery season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the general zone season, even with archery equipment.

To hunt deer during the general season (rifle) in Zone C-4, a hunter must possess a "C" Zones tag (C Zones general season). This tag is valid in any "C" zone (C-1, C-2, C-3 or C-4), but **ONLY** during the prescribed general season for that zone. These tags **may not** be used to hunt deer during the Hunt A-1 archery season, even with archery equipment.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone C-4 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section, below. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit deer tag applications by late May. For information regarding deer tag application procedures and obtaining a deer tag for this area, see the 2008 Hunting Digest, available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; record the appropriate "C" zone (Zone C-1, C-2, C-3 or C-4) where they killed their buck; attach the tag to the antlers, or ear if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to the Department within 30 days of taking a deer.

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone C-4 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within Zone C-4 are administered by the Lassen and Plumas National Forests (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (530-257-2151)

Plumas National Forest, P.O. Box 11500, 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy, CA 95971-6025 (530-283-2050)

BLM Offices:

Redding Field Office, 355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, California 96002 (530-224-2100)

In Zone C-4 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the Lassen and Plumas National Forest maps. USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737).

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. However, because Zone C-4 covers such a large area, several maps are needed to depict it entirely. BLM surface management maps for Zone C-4 include the Burney, Chico, Lake Almanor, Red Bluff, Susanville, and Willows maps. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Although there is a lot of private land in Zone C-4, there are extensive tracts of public lands with excellent access. Primary roadways in Zone C-4 are Interstate 5 (western C-4), State Highway 99E (western C-4), State Highway 44 (northern C-4), State Highway 162 (southern C-4), State Highway 36 (northern C-4), State Highway 70 (eastern C-4), State Highway 32 (central C-4), and State Highway 89 (northeastern C-4). Many County, USFS and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing access to public lands.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but early storms are not uncommon. Snow fall will be a rare occurrence with these storms but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone C-4 covers a very large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of C-4. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone C-4. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water and showers. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> The most useful tables for the purposes of planning or applying for hunts in this area are Tables 1b (Harvest and Success Information), 2a (Antler Class Information) and 10b (Drawing Statistics).

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone C-4 is considered stable to declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone C-4 include both Columbian black-tailed deer (western portion of

zone) and Rocky Mountain mule deer (northeastern portion of zone). Deer in Zone C-4 are a mix of resident and migratory deer. The deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in late spring and will remain until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather. In addition, a portion of the migration (east to west) occurs before and during the archery season, a unique situation possibly initiated by forage conditions.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone C-4 ranging from oak-woodland, mixed and montane chaparral, sagebrush and bitterbrush, aspen, juniper, hardwood-conifer and dense conifer to alpine/subalpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Brush stands comprised of buckbrush, deerbrush and bitter cherry are good areas to hunt. Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Generally, early in the season, the best hunting areas are the Lake Almanor Basin, Stover Mountain, Rock Creek, Bailey Creek, and Swain Mountain. Later in the season, the deer migrate into Tehama and Butte counties. However a few deer will remain in the Feather River Canyon and Greenville areas. In oak/shrub woodland habitat most successful hunters harvest their deer at or below 4,000 feet elevation.

Historically, some of the more popular areas in Zone C-4 include:

Butte County: Bald Mountain, Butte Meadow, Colby Mountain, Humbug Summit, Philbrook Lake, Snag Lake and Transfer Station.

Lassen County: Bogart Butte, Cemetery Mountain, Duck Lake, Goodrich Mountain, McCoy Flats, Swain Mountain and Turner Mountain.

Plumas County: Butte Lake, Eagle Rock, Echo Lake, Humbug Summit/Valley, Long Valley, Morris Lake, Mosquito Ridge, Mud Creek Rim, Rush Hill, Stover Mountain and Wilson Lake.

Shasta County: Badger Mountain, Baker Mountain and Viola area.

Tehama County: A-Line, Butte Meadow, Carter Meadow/Mountain, Childs Meadow, Digger Butte, Long Point, Mill Creek, Mineral Summit, Morgan Summit, Panther Springs, Paynes Creek, Slate Creek, Transfer Station, Turner Mountain, Wilson Lake and Yellow Jacket.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2008, three additional deer hunting opportunities exist within Zone C-4: a) Hunt G-1 (Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4); b) Hunt J-3 (Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck Hunt); and c) Hunt J-21 (East Tehama Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt. For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deermaps.html>

In addition, a limited number of permits are available to G-1 tagholders for hunting on the 45,000 acre Tehama Wildlife Area. For more information and application procedures contact the Department's Northern Region Office-Region 1 in Redding at 530-225-2300.

2008 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(3) Zone C.

(A) Area: Shall include all of Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 (see subsections 360(a)(3)(A)1. through 4.).

4. Zone C-4.

In those portions of Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and Tehama counties within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 5 and Cottonwood Creek at Cottonwood; east on Cottonwood Creek to the Sacramento River; south on the Sacramento River to Battle Creek; east on Battle Creek to the North Fork of Battle Creek; northeast on the North Fork of Battle Creek to Highway 44; east on Highway 44 to Highway 89 at the north entrance of Lassen Volcanic National Park; north and east on Highway 89 and 44 to the junction of Highway 44 at Old Station; south and east on Highway 44 to Highway 36 west of Susanville; west on Highway 36 to Highway 147 near Westwood; south on Highway 147 to Highway 89; south on Highway 89 to Highway 70; southwest on Highway 70 to Highway 162 at Oroville; west on Highway 162 to Interstate 5; north on Interstate 5 to Cottonwood Creek to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The seasons for the C Zone shall be those specified for the areas described as C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 (see subsections 360(a)(3)(B)1. through 4.).

4. Zone C-4.

The season in Zone C-4 shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 8,575. Zone C tags are valid in Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 during the general season only as described above in subsections 360(a)(3)(B)1. through 4.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(1) G-1 (Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4).

(A) Area: Those portions of Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta, and Tehama counties within the area described as Zone C-4 (see subsection 360(a)(3)(A)4.).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-1 (Late Season Buck Hunt for Zone C-4) shall open on the fourth Saturday in October and extend for 9 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 2,850.

(27) J-3 (Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck Hunt).

(A) Area: That portion of Tehama County within the boundaries of the Tehama Wildlife Area.

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-3 (Tehama Wildlife Area Apprentice Buck Hunt) shall open on the last Saturday in November and extend for 2 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 15.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

3. Tagholders shall attend an orientation meeting the day before the opening day of the season.

(43) J-21 (East Tehama Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: In that portion of Tehama County within the area described as zone C-4 (see subsection 360(a)(3)(A)4.).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-21 (East Tehama Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the third Saturday in September and extend for 44 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 50.

(E) Special Conditions:

1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708(a)(2)).

2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

(44) Conditions for Special Hunts.

(A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.

(B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

(3) C Zones (Note: see subsection 361(b) below for area-specific archery hunt A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt)).

(b) Archery Hunting With Area-specific Archery Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, only during the archery seasons as follows:

(1) A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt).

(A) Area: Shall include all of Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 as described in subsections 360(a)(3)(A)1 through 4.

(B) Season:

4. Zone C-4. The archery season for Zone C-4 shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 16 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 2,045. A-1 (C Zones Archery Only Hunt) tags are valid in Zones C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 only during the archery season as specified above in subsections 361(b)(1)(B)1 through 4.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

(1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.

(2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.

(3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).

(d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).

(e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****